Son of God

Read Psalm 2

Psalm 2 is another royal psalm. It was originally written about an earthly king, but its ultimate fulfillment is in the Ultimate King, Messiah.

The opening verses paint a sobering picture. Imagine all the most powerful forces on earth combining all their resources toward just one goal: destroying God's people.

Because many of us live in a stable country that guarantees religious freedom and makes reasonable efforts to protect us from violence, we sometimes have trouble identifying with psalms like Psalm 2. We are not threatened with violent persecution for our beliefs. No enemy armies are massing at our border.

But never forget that Satan is constantly, completely opposed to God, His purposes, and His people. He is especially opposed to Jesus Christ, God's Son and Anointed One. Satan enlists all those he influences in this constant, determined opposition. Sometimes his opposition is violent, either through military confrontation or through persecution. When necessary, his opposition is more subtle, taking the form of intellectual, cultural, and social pressure. But whether his methods are overt or hidden, his goal is always the same: the destruction of God's people and all His plans.

So what is God's response to the threat of Satan and all his gathered forces? He laughs! He makes fun of them! He ridicules them! He's not frightened, He's amused! Then He terrifies them by speaking in His burning fury: "I have installed MY KING on His holy throne! HE is in complete control!"

Immediately Messiah Himself speaks up, in vv.7-9, and talks about His installation by God.

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He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." (v.7)
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The King that God has enthroned is not just His Chosen One. It is His own Son.

This is not the first time God has expressed His fierce love for His own child. Earlier in the Old Testament, He spoke of the people of Israel as His firstborn son. God sent Moses, a lowly shepherd from the backside of the desert, to the most powerful ruler on earth. He came demanding that Pharaoh give up the people of Israel, his massive slave-labor force. God's instructions to Moses were this:

"Say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my **firstborn son**... Let **my son** go." (Exodus 4:22-23, NIV) Before the confrontation was over, Egypt's first-born sons all lay dead, and God's "firstborn son" was free.

God's miraculous care for His first-born continued as they spent 40 years in a vast and barren desert, then faced the task of conquering occupied Canaan. Moses comforted Israel with these words:

"Do not be terrified...The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, **as a father carries his son**, all the way you went until you reached this place." (Deuteronomy 1:29-31, NIV)

Later, after they were settled in their own land, God gave them David as their king, a man after His own heart. Notice how God describes His love for David, even in all his frailty:

"My faithful love will be with him...
He will call out to me, 'You are my Father...'
I will appoint him my firstborn,
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.
I will maintain my love to him forever,
and my covenant with him will never fail.
I will establish his line forever,
his throne as long as the heavens endure."
(Psalm 89:24, 26-29, NIV)

A thousand years later, Jesus Christ came, not only as the promised Son of David, but as the only-begotten Son of God. He is the King spoken of here in Psalm 2. God has appointed Him sovereign, eternal ruler of all the universe. No force in heaven or earth, seen or unseen, can challenge His power and authority.

Almighty God loves Him with the burning, unquenchable love of a Father for His only child. He is our King, now and forever. In Him, we are bold, confident, and secure in the face of every threat, every hardship, and every uncertainty.

Father, You are sovereign over all reality.
You speak, and it is so.
Why do we hesitate to trust You?
Why are we ever afraid?

Hymn: Psalm 2

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